

and ambiguities. If paired with offensive systems, they can be viewed as fostering an aggressive policy, and no one wants that. But with these considerations firmly in mind, I call upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace, to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.

Tonight, consistent with our obligations of the ABM treaty and recognizing the need for closer consultation with our allies, I'm taking an important first step. I am directing a comprehensive and intensive effort to define a long-term research and development program to begin to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles. This could pave the way for arms control measures to eliminate the weapons themselves. We seek neither military superiority nor political advantage. Our only purpose—one all people share—is to search for ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war.

My fellow Americans, tonight we're launching an effort which holds the promise of changing the course of human history. There will be risks, and results take time. But I believe we can do it. As we cross this threshold, I ask for your prayers and your support.

Thank you, good night, and God bless you.

CHINA AIRLINES PURCHASE FROM BOEING

Ms. CANTRELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to commemorate the purchase of 10 Boeing 747-400's acquired by China Airlines.

The relationship between Boeing and Taiwan's China Airlines has been extensive. Over the last 7 years, China Airlines has purchased a total of 97 American-made aircraft from Boeing. The acquisition of these 10 planes, which value \$2 billion, brings the total amount of the airline's Boeing-purchased aircraft to \$13 billion.

Sales between Boeing and China Airlines have contributed to increased trade between the United States and Taiwan over the last decade. In these past years, bilateral trade has grown each year by an average of 4.1 percent. Because of this thriving market, the United States has become Taiwan's largest export market. In 2000, the United States accounted for 20 percent of Taiwan's trade worldwide.

In addition, the aircraft have allowed increased domestic flights between Taiwan and the United States. Every week there are over 270 flights—179 passenger and 89 cargo—between our two countries.

I am very pleased to see that Taiwan has become one of our more beneficial trading partners in the world today, and I hope that this market continues to thrive for years to come.

A MICHIGAN MOM

Mr. LEVIN. I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues Ms. Shikha Hamilton, a board member of the Million Mom March from my home State of Michigan. Ms. Hamilton visited my office last month with her fellow board

members to report on their successes and to urge us to pass sensible gun safety legislation to stem the tide of gun violence that plagues many of our communities.

Ms. Hamilton currently serves as the president of the MMM Chapter in Detroit. A rash of gun violence in Detroit over the last year has claimed the lives of 26 children; these incidents highlight the challenge gun violence poses for communities in protecting families. Ms. Hamilton is one person who has stepped up and met that challenge. She has helped form a coalition with other Detroit violence prevention groups, organized a huge march on Belle Isle, and helped create public service announcements to air on local radio stations. Ms. Hamilton is a leader in her community and I commend her for her work.

As Detroit chapter president, Ms. Hamilton testified in support of a local ordinance prohibiting weapons in public buildings. It unanimously passed the Detroit City Council on November 13, 2002. Her chapter also persuaded the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News to close the "newspaper loophole." The newspapers agreed to stop the placement of gun sales in the classified ads, one way criminals had been gaining access to guns without background checks. In addition to all of this, Ms. Hamilton is a full-time attorney, wife and the mother of a 4-year-old daughter.

In the meeting with my staff, Ms. Hamilton and her MMM colleagues mentioned several pieces of gun safety legislation that are critical if we are to reduce gun violence. Among the most important is legislation closing the gun show loophole. In 1994, Congress passed the Brady Law, which requires federal firearm licensees to perform criminal background checks on gun buyers. However, a loophole in this law allows unlicensed private gun sellers to sell firearms at gun shows without conducting a background check.

The Gun Show Background Check Act would close this loophole in the law by extending the Brady law background check requirement to all sellers of firearms including those at gun shows. I cosponsored this bill because I believe it is critical that we do all we can to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals and terrorists. Study after study has demonstrated that the Brady law has been successful in making it more difficult for criminals to gain access to firearms, and by closing the gun show loophole, Congress would again demonstrate its commitment to public safety. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. Hamilton is doing her best to reduce gun violence in her community. We should do our best to pass sensible laws to make her job easier.

COMMENDING U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last night the President addressed the Nation to announce that coalition forces

were in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people, and to defend the world from grave danger.

This action was taken as a last resort against an evil dictator, Saddam Hussein, who for 12 years has continued to defy and evade his commitments and responsibilities set out for him by 17 United Nations Security Council resolutions.

I believe Saddam Hussein must be disarmed, and for this reason I supported the resolution authorizing the President to take military action if diplomatic efforts were unsuccessful.

And, while some Members of this body did not support the authorization for the use of force back in October, I am confident that we here, Republicans and Democrats, stand united in our support for our uniformed personnel now in harm's way.

During the past few weeks and months, I have seen and heard communities all across my State send off, with tearful eyes, their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and moms and dads who have been called to serve.

These brave men and women, from Decorah to Muscatine, Red Oak, to Mason City, Pocahontas to Davenport, stood proud while high school bands played the "Star Spangled Banner," and local religious leaders prayed for their safe return.

Over 3,700 Reserve and National Guard troops in Iowa have been called up for active duty. They come from all professions and all economic backgrounds.

I commend them, and all those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, for their courage, bravery and patriotism. I am grateful for the enormous sacrifice made by these men and women and their families. I could not be more honored by their commitment to freedom, and I will continue to pray for their quick and safe return home to their loved ones.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. JAMES R. GAVIN III, M.D., Ph.D.

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate a distinguished member of the medical community in Georgia. Dr. James R. Gavin III, M.D., Ph.D. has accepted the offer to serve as president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Dr. Gavin's experience and expertise in the medical field is exemplary and offers a high standard of excellence for the student of Morehouse School of Medicine to model.

In 1966, Dr. Gavin graduated from Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC with a degree in chemistry. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Emory University in 1970 and his M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1975.